

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09718 311025Z
ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7405
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG IS XF
TAGS: WEIZMAN VISIT

REF: CAIRO 9639 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PUTTING BEST FACE ON WEIZMAN VISIT EGYPTIANS
EMPHASIZING HIS ASSURANCE IDF WILL PULL OUT OF SOUTH
LEBANON ONCE UN DEPLOYMENT COMPLETED. NO PROGRESS
MADE ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BUT SADAT-WEIZMAN TO HAVE
SECOND SESSION MARCH 31. PRESS EMPHASIZES EGYPT
"LISTENING"; GOE POSITION FIRM. U.S.-ISRAELI IMPASSE
SAID TO HAVE CREATED DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRISIS FOR
BEGIN. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS MARCH 31 FRONT PAGED, WITH PHOTOS, PREVIOUS
DAY'S TWO HOUR MEETING SADAT, MUBARAK AND GAMASY WITH
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09718 311025Z

WEIZMAN. ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVED IN CAIRO AT
NOON AND TALKS BEGAN IMMEDIATELY. (IN CONTRAST PRE-
VIOUS VISITS, WEIZMAN CAME IN UNMARKED AIRCRAFT.)
PAPERS EMPHASIZED, AS DID PRESIDENCY SPOKESMAN, WEIZMAN'S
ASSURANCE THAT IDF WILL NOT RPT NOT REMAIN IN SOUTH
LEBANON "ONE MINUTE" AFTER DEPLOYMENT UN FORCES COMPLETED.
SPOKESMAN STRESSED WEIZMAN'S ASSURANCE "LEAVES NO ROOM

FOR DOUBTS."

2. PEACE PROCESS. IN CONTRAST LEBANON, SPOKESMAN ASSERTED NO PROGRESS MADE ON PEACE PROCESS AND SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED. QUESTIONED WHETHER SADAT-WEIZMAN MEETING PRELUDE TO RESUMPTION POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEES, SPOKESMEN SAID COMMITTEES' WORK WILL NOT BE RESUMED UNTIL "FOUNDATION" FOR RESUMING TALKS ACHIEVED. SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED SADAT WILL SEND MESSAGE LATER TODAY TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON OUTCOME MEETINGS WITH WEIZMAN. (WE UNDERSTAND THIS WILL BE AFTER FURTHER SADAT-WEIZMAN SESSION MARCH 31.)

3. TEL AVIV REPORTS. GUMHURIYYA PROMINENTLY CARRIED REPORTS, ATTRIBUTED TEL AVIV POLITICAL CIRCLES, DESCRIBING WEIZMAN VISIT AS EXPLORATORY, AIMED AT REVIVING SADAT'S INITIATIVE. WEIZMAN SAID TO BE CARRYING NO TANGIBLE SUGGESTIONS AND, REPORTEDLY, HAD HIMSELF SEEN NO POINT IN COMING WITHOUT ANYTHING NEW. ISRAELI CIRCLES SAID TO VIEW VISIT AS "FINAL ATTEMPT SAVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS."

4. EDITORIALS. AHAM QUESTIONED MOTIVATION FOR WEIZMAN VISIT, CONCLUDING IT DESIGNED BREAK IMPASSE RESULTING FROM CARTER-BEGIN TALKS. ISRAELI GOAL SAID TO BE OUSTING U.S. FROM GAME BY INITIATING RENEWED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. AS FOR WISDOM OF ALLOWING WEIZMAN TO COME, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 09718 311025Z

PAPER FOUND NO DANGER IN LISTENING SINCE EGYPT'S POSITION CLEAR. PAPER'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HAMDI GAMAL ECHOED SENTIMENTS ON FRONT PAGE, WHERE HE DESCRIBED BEGIN'S DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AS CRUCIAL TURNING POINT IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. GAMAL PRAISED CARTER FOR ACHIEVING PROMPT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON LEBANON THUS FORESTALLING ISRAELI MACHINATIONS. LACK OF PROGRESS IN WASHINGTON LED, GAMAL CLAIMED, TO INTERNAL ISRAELI CRISIS AND WEIZMAN DISPATCHED TO CAIRO IN ORDER GAIN TIME TO ENABLE BEGIN FIND WAY OUT OF DILEMMA.

5. ISRAELI INTERESTS. GUMHURIYYA CLAIMED BEGIN DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS IN KNESSET ADDRESS REALIZING HE FIGHTING LOSING BATTLE. "ANTI-PEACE BY NATURE", BEGIN SAID TO DEFINE ISRAELI VITAL INTERESTS IN TERMS EXPANSION AT EXPENSE ARAB COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL CLAIMED INCREASING NUMBER OF ISRAELIS VIEW BEGIN'S POLICY AS DANGER TO ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY INsofar AS IT ANTAGONIZES U.S.--"THE SOLE FRIEND OF ISRAEL." EILTS

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